

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 4, 2004 TO BE "THE ASSOCIATION OF
3 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE" AND
4 EXPRESSING RECOGNITION FOR DIRECT-CARE STAFF WHO PROVIDE
5 COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.

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7 WHEREAS, the association of developmental disabilities
8 community providers is a statewide organization of
9 community-based agencies that deliver quality service options
10 to children and adults with developmental disabilities and to
11 children with, or at risk of, developmental delay; and

12 WHEREAS, more than forty-five thousand New Mexicans have
13 developmental disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, more than six thousand children in New Mexico
15 have, or are at risk of, developmental delay; and

16 WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities have
17 substantial functional limitations related to a mental or
18 physical impairment, including mental retardation and brain
19 trauma; and

20 WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities require
21 specialized, lifelong, individualized services and support;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities and
24 their families have increasingly expressed their desire to
25 receive community-based and community-integrated services as

1 an alternative to institutional care; and

2 WHEREAS, the demand for community-based services will
3 continue to grow as family caregivers age, individuals with
4 developmental disabilities live longer, waiting lists grow
5 and services expand; and

6 WHEREAS, outside of families, private providers that
7 employ direct-care professionals deliver the majority of
8 services for persons with developmental disabilities and
9 children with, or at risk of, developmental delay; and

10 WHEREAS, direct-care professionals provide a wide range
11 of supportive services to persons with developmental
12 disabilities and children with, or at risk of, developmental
13 delay on a daily basis, including habilitation, personal
14 care, employment, transportation, recreation, residential
15 support and children's early intervention services, so that
16 those persons may successfully attend school, work and
17 participate in community life; and

18 WHEREAS, high rates of job vacancy and employee
19 turnover, which may reach more than fifty percent annually,
20 threaten the ability of developmental disabilities community-
21 based providers to achieve their core mission, which is the
22 provision of quality support to persons with developmental
23 disabilities and children with, or at risk of, developmental
24 delay; and

25 WHEREAS, direct-care professionals are well-trained,

1 highly committed individuals who are dedicated to providing
2 high quality, individualized services to persons with
3 developmental disabilities and children with, or at risk of,
4 developmental delay;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that recognition and appreciation be
7 extended to New Mexico's large cadre of direct-care
8 professionals who provide quality support to persons with
9 developmental disabilities and children with, or at risk of,
10 developmental delay; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to members of the association of developmental
13 disabilities community-based providers. _____

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